

Wyoming Game and Fish Department Hunter Education Newsletter



Coordinator's Comments

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR 2014

The WGFD has had a very successful hunter education (HE) program for many years due to the dedication of many volunteers and staff. Both legislative changes and pending Commission changes drive the program forward to better meet public demands. WGFD is always working to improve the HE program and customer service. Many of the HE program modifications are in place now and we are working through these changes to ensure a smooth transition.

Here are some important points for the HE changes :

HE Exceptions - See page four for details of the changes to statute made in the 2014 legislative session.

HE Instructor Manual - The HE instructor manual updates have been a long-term project and is scheduled to be sent out to instructors this summer.

HE Registration and Sportsman's Identification Number (SPID) Generation - All HE registration must be completed through the WGFD website. This process now includes each student generating a SPID that will allow the HE database to mirror the Electronic License System (ELS).

Class Listings - All HE classes require a course information form to be submitted, each class will be posted on the WGFD web page. The registration date opener is determined by the coordinating instructor.

Walk-in Students - Students who walk into a class will be required to provide either their SPID or the last four digits of the Social Security Number (SSN) to their instructor. Students who do not develop their own SPID may need assistance to generate one. Students who do not provide a SPID or the SSN to the instructor, will NOT receive a HE card, and will not receive certification in the class. A new walk-in form has been developed and is found on the web with the other instructor forms.

Online HE Course - For many years the WGFD has offered an online hunter education course. We have partnered with Kalkomey to be the sole private vendor for a new online hunter education course. Hunter-ed.com brings an up-to-date course.

HE Certificates - As of January 1st each graduating student will be issued a temporary card which is valid for two weeks after signed by the coordinating instructor. At the end of the two weeks the student must visit the WGFD website to print their own permanent card. HE instructors will receive temporary cards in the classroom supplies packets.

Hunter Mentor Program - The WGFD Hunter Mentor Program (HMP) will also be requiring the mentee to register using a SPID. The HMP also underwent statutory changes which become effective July 1, 2014.

Thanks to all in ensuring a quality HE program,

“Conserving Wildlife — Serving People”

A Sense of Place

Season Three for Forever Wild Families !

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department's *Forever Wild Families* program is harnessing the power of family, community, and word-of-mouth to attract new hunters and anglers. *Forever Wild Families* is a series of customized outings for those with limited hunting or fishing experience. Tasha Sorensen, project coordinator, is in her third year of this nationally acclaimed project and is now accepting applications in the Laramie and Cody regions. Please visit <http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/education-1001421.aspx> for more information.

Since the *Forever Wild Families* inception, families from the Lander and Cody region have participated in a variety of activities. Evaluation of the surveys that participants completed before and after the events revealed that participants had gained the skills and awareness that Sorensen sought to impart. 92 percent of first-year participants bought fishing and/or hunting licenses the following year.

One of the strategically designed sessions includes a hunter education class with a range-day introduction to shotgunning, .22-caliber rifles/pistols, big-bore rifles, muzzleloaders, and 3-D archery target practice. Instruction also included survival skills, small-game processing, hunting ethics, and wildlife conservation.

It All Leads to One Moment.

Want more outdoor time with your family?

Want to learn to hunt and fish?

FOREVER WILD
Families

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

For more information visit wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/education-1001421.aspx or email Tasha.Sorensen@wyo.gov.

The moments captured above tell the tales of the very successful new Forever Wild Families Program .

Photo to right Lander Forever Wild Families Monica Yates at the Hunter Education Family Range Day.

HE Recruitment and Retention

What can they do after a HE class!

After a HE class the same question arises: What is next? Opportunities for youth interested in either hunting or shooting are sometimes not well known. Please mention to all about the chance to show off their skills at the Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

The **WYOMING STATE YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE (YHEC)** will be held on Saturday May 31, 2014 at the Upton Gun Club.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Must have completed hunter education and present their HE card.
2. Junior division (14 years of age and under)
3. Senior division **Note Rule Change:** (15 – 18 years)

EXCEPTION: Participants turning 19 years of age during the calendar year 2014, must be enrolled in high school 2013-2014 to be eligible for participation in the Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

RESPONSIBILITY EVENTS:

1. Hunter Responsibility Exam
2. Hunter Safety Trail Challenge
3. Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge
4. Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge

SHOOTING EVENTS:

5. Hunting Shotgun Challenge
6. Light Hunting Rifle Challenge
7. Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge
8. Hunting Archery Challenge

It All Leads to One Moment.

FOREVER WILD
Families

Tools of the Trade

New online HE Course via hunter-ed.com

It is essential for all HE instructors to understand the differences between a traditional HE class and the online course requirements. The new Wyoming online course brings new technologies and enhancements for students through Kalkomey Enterprises, Inc and hunter-ed.com. The online course can be taken for free and all instructors are encouraged to try it. Fees are only collected when an entrance voucher is desired.

Wyoming Hunter Education Internet Field Day Check List For Assessors

Requirements prior to attendance at the Internet Field Day (IFD):

The online HE course must be completed and an entrance voucher printed prior to the students attending an IFD. The only acceptable Wyoming online hunter education (HE) course, can be found at <http://www.hunter-ed.com/wyoming/>.

The 'old' HE course will be accepted as long as the date on the tests is prior to February 25, 2014, the launch of the new online curriculum. If a student completed this course they must present 100% completion certificates for 14 IHEA tests and four Wyoming specific lesson plans.

Registration for an IFD should have been completed prior to a student attending the class.

If there are walk-ins, they must provide or generate a unique sportsman's identification number (SPID). Students can generate one with a smart phone or go home after the class and call the instructor with the number (see SPID generation form). You can also provide the last four digits of the student's social security number and WGFD-HE will generate a SPID for the student.

IFD Assessors may still collect the \$10.00 fee for the IFD, to cover related expenses. The online vendor collects \$19.50 from each student to cover administrative costs. The WGFD does not collect any fee for hunter education.

Entry quiz: ~ 30 minutes

For IFD admittance a students must present a completion voucher upon arrival at the site.

The entrance exam will be administered with a minimum score of 90% needed to be allowed to participate in the IFD assessments and final HE testing. Students receiving less than 90% should be asked to leave immediately.

Ethics /responsible behavior evaluations: ~ 1.5 hours

Ethics scenarios and discussion of poor ethical behavior.

Wyoming Laws and Regulations – yellow and salmon sheets.

Hands-on field test: Firearms handling is required ~ 1.5 hours

Gun handling –i.e. fence crossing with or without partners.

Practical loading of firearms with dummy ammunition.

Proficiency evaluation checklist is to be used for each student.

Live firing of firearms (is included when available).

Final 50 question written exam & field day evaluation: ~ 30 minutes

Score must be a minimum of 70% on the final HE test.

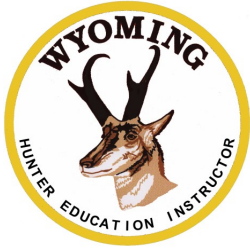
Course evaluation surveys are to be completed by each participant.

Sign temporary certificate of completion forms for successful students and give out HE patches.

Instructors must send all scores to the HE state office within one week of IFD. Successful students will be entered into the HE database.

Students are to print their own permanent HE card (Instructor names are on the cards) directly from the WGFD website two weeks after successfully completing the IFD.

The 2014 schedule for all approved IFDs is found on the WGFD website. CHECK OUT the IFDS.



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As Hunter Education Volunteer Instructors you are a voice for the Department's mission:

"Conserving Wildlife — Serving People"

The Department's message that we as HE instructors teach has been established by the Game and Fish Commission and includes six major topics:

1. *Hunter Responsibility and Ethics*
2. *Wildlife Conservation and Management*
3. *Firearms and Firearm Safety*
4. *Game & Fish Statutes and Regulations*
5. *Game Care & Wildlife Identification*
6. *Outdoor Safety*

Dates to Remember

2014 HE Instructor Workshops

The 2014 HE workshop series started in the Laramie region on March 29th. Others scheduled:

Green River Region April 5th

Sheridan Region June 21st

Lander Region August 2nd

2015 Workshops TBA in Cody, Casper, Jackson and Pinedale WGFD regions.

The New HE Instructor Academy will be July 25th - 27th at the YMCA of the Bighorns – Camp Roberts.

The IHEA-USA conference will be held June 2nd - 6th in Charleston South Carolina.

The Youth Hunter Education Challenge will be May 31st at the Upton Gun Club north range.

LIKE the WGFD on FACEBOOK and see all sorts of wildlife and Hunter Education posts.

<http://wgfd.wyo.gov>

Regional and Statewide

HUNTER EDUCATION EXCEPTIONS BECOME THE LAW JULY 1st

During this past legislative session several changes enacted add hunter education (safety) exceptions to **W.S. 23-2-106**.

W.S. 23-2-106. Hunter safety; is the statute which established Wyoming's hunter education requirement and now HE exceptions have been added. The latest changes to the HE statutory requirements include exceptions via the hunter mentor program changes and military and law enforcement exemptions.

SF0038, which was drafted by Senator Leland Christensen of Alta, provides for exemptions to the existing hunter safety course requirements. His changes to the hunter education requirements are:

Change one: A mentor shall not provide supervision for more than one (1) person, other than immediate family members, at a time in the field. The special authorization shall be valid for not more than one (1) year. The changes will now allow for eligible mentors to take multiple family mentees afield at one time. The other change eliminated the HMP as good for once in a lifetime and now allows those enrolling in the HMP to now apply for authorization in multiple years.

Change two: Hunter Education certification requirements now shall not apply to the following persons:

- Any active member, honorably discharged past member or veteran of the armed forces of the United States;
- Any active or retired Wyoming peace officer who has qualified pursuant to W.S. 9-1-701 through 9-1-707.

The Governor signed these exception into law with an effective date of July 1, 2014 and the WGF Commission still determines HE course requirements.